

INSIDE

SAN JOSE

A CITY OF SAN JOSE PUBLICATION
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SAN JOSE Plays

It Was Off the Hook

City of San José Opens Largest Skatepark in the State

OK, the very thought of flipping six feet in the air with nothing between you and over 68,000 square feet of pavement but a colorful helmet and a dream may not appeal to most of us; but to the Kings and Queens of Concrete, they have reached nirvana. Lake Cunningham Regional Skatepark at 2305 South White Road opened on Saturday, April 26 to over 1,500 eager skaters who declared it a success.

The skateboard community and city residents celebrated the long-awaited opening of Lake Cunningham Regional Skatepark with a ribbon



as a skatepark.' The experiment appears to be a success. Skaters, who have been blogging about

'if you build them a skatepark then the rest of the city's infrastructure won't serve as a skatepark.'

cutting ceremony, entertainment, giveaways, vert wall & long jump contests and public skating. Local skateboarders had the opportunity to skate with professionals at the newly constructed park.

By building the skatepark, the City of San José invested in what was thought of in municipal circles as a risky experiment. The operating theory is 'if you build them a skatepark then the rest of the city's infrastructure won't serve

the park for months, converged on San José from all over the country.

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Count Down to Zero 01SJ Festival Returns in June

We like our art edgy - San José will again host the biennial 01SJ, a Global Festival of Art on the Edge, June 4-8, www.01sj.org. Sponsored in part by Cisco Systems, Adobe and the City of San José, 01SJ is North America's largest festival of digital arts and will showcase more than 100 projects. The festival will feature new works from an international roster of artists and performers at the cross-section of contemporary art, technology, and culture. The five-day Festival will incorporate exhibitions, films, concerts, performances, happenings, and nightlife occurring throughout downtown San José's parks, public streets, museums, theaters and clubs. In its second biennial manifestation, the 01SJ Festival is becoming a signature event for San José and all of Silicon Valley as an international gathering for the arts and culture that embraces cutting edge innovation, technology and expression. As the epicenter for digital technology, San José is the perfect place for this unique event. Visit www.01sj.org for more information and the schedule of events.

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INSIDE
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The Mission of the City of San José is to provide quality public services, facilities and opportunities that create, sustain and enhance a safe, livable and vibrant community for its diverse residents, businesses and visitors.

It Was Off the Hook

Continued



The 68,000-square-foot facility is a state-of-the-art skatepark features the world's largest and longest full-pipe at 22 feet tall and 72 feet long, the largest cradle in America, measuring 19 feet, and the world's tallest vert wall, at 30 feet high all of which being confirmed by Guinness World records. The skatepark features eleven different bowls that range from beginner level to expert level and includes two thimbles, a flow section and a street course.

The \$4.7 million construction project was paid for by the City's ParkTrust Fund. Zach Wormhoudt was the principal landscape architect of the skatepark project. The City of San José's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Neighborhood Services will be managing the facility.

So next time you're in the SJ, bust out a session at Lake Cunningham Skatepark, dude I'm telling you it's sick.

We got it from eBay

Auction Site Former CEO Gives San José Props

Well, we can't all retire after ten years on the job, but then again, we all can't take a startup based on an untried concept to a multibillion dollar global enterprise only in 10 years. Meg Whitman, eBay's CEO for the last decade, retired after leading the company through its September 1998 initial public offering and 40 quarters of sequential revenue growth. Whitman credits much of the company's success to the City of San José business environment.

After receiving a commendation from Mayor Reed during a recent City Council Meeting, Whitman made her views on eBay's hometown apparent.

"[This commendation . . .] is one that I should most certainly share with many people in this room who have helped to make eBay a remarkable success in its home town of San José. Our partnership with the office of the Mayor, the City Council, the city staff, and the Office of Economic Development, is a testament to San José's status as a world class place



to grow and operate a business.

As Whitman moves on to next (ad)venture the City of San José will continue to do all we can to make possible to grow and feed eBay and companies like it.

SAN JOSE Invests

Finding Your Leadership Voice

2008 Women's Leadership Summit

While career women are soaring to greater heights each day, it can be daunting to take lead in the professional world. The 2nd Annual Women's Leadership Summit (WLS) focused on the theme, Finding your Leadership Voice and drew 240 public sector professional women from all levels. Held at the Dolce Hayes Mansion in San José, the Summit was co-sponsored by the Municipal Management Association of Northern California (MMANC), Cal-ICMA's (International City/County Management Association) Women Leading Government Initiative, and the City of San José.

San José City Manager Debra Figone opened the conference by discussing career crossroads. She shared a letter she had written to herself at last year's conference when she was considering the next step in her career. [That next step was

whether or not to apply for the position of City Manager of one of the largest cities the country.] Figone focused on the importance of understanding yourself, trusting your instincts, pursuing your passion and living your values.

With the understanding that leadership effects all aspects of a working woman's life, WLS provided career development workshops promoting strategies for developing a leading management style, techniques for effective communication, tips for healthy living, ideas for managing personal finances and more. The Summit was an unmatched opportunity to learn and grow professionally and personally. For more information on next year's Women's Leadership Summit contact webmaster@mmanc.org or visit www.mmanc.org

SAN JOSE Streamlines

Mapping Out a Major Money Savings

City Data Reduces the Number of Properties on FEMA Floodplain Maps

When FEMA presented its preliminary 100-year Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs), to the City in December 2007 the maps included the addition of approximately 370 additional properties in San José. For the property owners this was not good news; they faced significant costs in flood insurance, building retrofit and changes to construction standards. The City of San José to the rescue! Data provided by City staff gave FEMA more accurate topographic data for reanalysis. The result was a approximately 351 of these properties being removed from maps.

To further our goal of reducing flood impacts and losses; recently three City staff members achieved the status of Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM) from the Association of State Floodplain Managers. These employees join one other CFM in the Public Works Department to further strengthen the City's Floodplain Management Program. We love it when less saves more.

Your Spring Cleaning Could Launch a Career

The theory is if you haven't worn it in a year, you're not going to wear it. Why not launch a career with it? The Career Closet is a volunteer-based organization that provides business attire and other services to help women gain and retain employment, advance their careers and improve family stability. In 2007 the Career Closet assisted more than 1,800 women prepare for that all important job interview and the next step on the career ladder

If you've got a closet full of unneeded career clothes consider donating them to Career Closet. Who knows? Maybe the suit that launched your career could launch someone else's

For more information on the Career Closet please call (408) 451-1200 or (650) 572-1368 or visit www.careercloset.org.

SAN JOSE Innovates

Who's Your CITY?

In his new book, school professor, speaker, and bestselling author Richard Florida features San José as one of the “Superstar cities” that has the ability and talent to defy the downturn. Florida’s 2003 book, *The Rise of the Creative Class*, states “... diverse, tolerant, innovative and vibrant environments attract creative workers, such as entrepreneurs who may staff and/or start innovative, growing companies.” His new book proves those ‘Creative classes’ call San José home.

Florida ranks San José in the top ‘best places’ in multiple categories such as

- Best Places for Mid career professionals ages 30-44
- Best Places for Families with Children
- Best Places for Retirees (over 65 years of age)

And of course, we’ve all heard about that (in)famous ranking as the number one place to meet single men. Being of a decidedly quantitative nature, we don’t like to argue with statistics.

They Say it's the Sincerest Form of Flattery

Australian MP Cites City of San José as Economic Model



Newly elected Australian Member of Parliament (MP) Richard Marles believes the City of Geelong should model its economic future on the City of San José. In his maiden speech to Australian Federal Parliament, Marles said the City [Geelong] must move from its industrial dependency and find alternative industries to prosper during the coming years. MP Marles cited San José’s standing in the United States as a transport hub and tourism spot as a blueprint for Geelong’s revival. The City of Geelong (pronounced Jill-ong) is located in the state of Victoria, in southeastern Australia. It lies 47 miles southwest of Melbourne, Victoria’s state capital. has 234,000 residents, 10,000 businesses, and is one of Australia’s most diversified economic centers. To the City of Geelong, we love mentoring and G’day!

SAN JOSE Innovates

Getting a Jump on the Weather

San José's Remote Automated Weather Station

According to Real Facts, a one-day weather forecast requires about 10 billion math calculations – or we could just check with the City’s new Remote Automated Weather Station (RAWS). The easy access to this information gives us a much-needed in headstart on potentially hazardous weather events like the recent heat wave. Funded by San José’s 2005 Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) grant, RAWS is located in Alum Rock Park and is now transmitting hourly weather data to the National

Weather Service, Fire Department and the Parks, Recreation & Neighborhood Services (PRNS) Department. This data collection tool provides an invaluable service by helping predict red flag days (high fire danger) during fire season. Our Fire Department and PRNS can use this information to prepare staffing and/or make decision the decision to close the park due to fire danger. For additional information, contact Kim Shunk at (408) 277-4595 or kim.shunk@sanjoseca.gov.

SAN JOSE Invests

Gaining Ground

City Explores Public-Private Partnership Program

In a budget crunch park maintenance and rose pruning moves lower on the 'to do' list as the City stretches to cover essential functions as first priority. Rather than allow our beautiful parks to languish or our roses to go 'all woody,' we've formed a few unique partnerships on an exploration basis. Two of those partnerships are definitely 'ground floor, grass roots' efforts; McEnery Park and the Municipal Rose Garden.



McEnery Park: Adobe Systems Inc. and the City agreed to a three-year public-private partnership providing an estimated \$20,000 of park maintenance services per year. Through mutual agreement the contract operates within the City's current prevailing wage policy.

Adobe's contribution will include standard park maintenance services while City staff will continue to monitor overall park conditions and will retain responsibility for the maintenance of structures, equipment and main water line within the park. Adobe's efforts will be recognized with

signs, similar in design to the City's Adopt-A-Park signage, posted at two park entrances acknowledging the partnership. This partnership allows current maintenance staff to increase service levels at other local parks.



Municipal Rose Garden: Community commitment was key to forming this partnership and revitalizing this signature City asset. The newly-created Friends of the San Jose Rose Garden organized three volunteer pruning days; giving local rosarians a chance to get in there and get that garden in shape, as well as, allowing current staff to focus their services on other maintenance obligations.

We will keep you posted as the City's Public-Private Partnership Program gains ground.

SAN JOSE Cares

It Helps to have Connections

About Project Homeless Connect

Business, Technology, Venture Capitalists; Silicon Valley is not exactly known for compassion—but it's been here all along. Rather than glittering gowns and faux fundraisers, we prefer a more direct connection like Project Homeless Connect (PHC).

Since December 2005, Project Homeless Connect has become a vital part of San José's outreach efforts to link the homeless community to the supportive services they need to stabilize their lives and end their homelessness.

These one-stop events provide people who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness with critical

community collaboration with the support of over 40 government and non-profit agencies, hundreds of volunteers, and corporate partners including Adobe, IBM, and Cisco Systems.

PHC 5, held December 5, 2007, achieved the following results:

- Approximately 700 clients served
- 250 volunteers
- 700 hot meals
- Over 40 people secured housing as a result of the event

San José's most recent Project Homeless Connect event was held Thursday, May 15, 2008 at the San José McEnery Convention Center. The doors were opened for clients from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

*“I came here to be a new person.
I feel like I am.”*

- Shauntelle Balzeit at Project Homeless Connect 5, as quoted in Joe Rodriguez's article "Chronic homeless accept special services, (mostly) gratefully," Mercury News, 12 December 2007

services, including medical and mental health assistance, housing information and referral, dental care, legal and employment assistance, California IDs, veterans benefits, haircuts, food, and other social services. By providing a one-stop shop for the homeless community, PHC enables easy access to wide-ranging services to a population that often finds it difficult to travel between widespread service providers.

What We Do

The City of San José and United Way Silicon Valley sponsor two Project Homeless Connect events each year with tremendous success. PHC is a model of

How You Can Help

VOLUNTEER! Volunteers are needed to help PHC participants access critical services.

ORGANIZE a collection drive in your community or business!

DONATE items, such as toiletries and socks, or make a tax-deductible donation to PHC through United Way Silicon Valley. Make checks payable to United Way Silicon Valley/Project Homeless Connect at 1922 The Alameda, San José, CA 95126.

For more information visit www.sjhousing.org, e-mail phc@sanjoseca.gov, or call 408.451.4001.

A View from a Different Window

Julie's Story (told in her own words)

"My name is Julie Rummell and this is my story. About 17 years ago I lost my job at a transportation company, turned to alcohol, and eventually became homeless off and on. Sometimes I would stay with family, friends and relatives, but I'm very independent and didn't want to live off of anyone. I stayed in places all over San José.... East, West, North and the South side, in parks, abandon houses, behind dumpsters, by rivers and at bus stops. The latest place I've been staying is by the railroad tracks. The tracks had its ups and downs.... It was bad but there were some things good, like my friend Martha. We met on the tracks and we take care of each other, we have a bond, we're sisters.

I didn't like the fighting and the struggling on the streets, thinking about where my next meal was coming from. I could always come up with a beer, but what about eating? You can always put up a tarp to block yourself in, but sometimes it gets really, really cold. You have to have like 50 million sleeping bags and make sure you sleep next to someone for body heat. Body heat is the best heat. Alfred was my big old teddy bear.... I had to snuggle to stay warm. I thought I was going to be on the streets forever with no one but myself and God. I even went to see Mental Health and they said they don't want to see me. They don't have time. No sense in coming in... They won't let my foot in the door. I qualify for SSI, I know that. I tried twice, back in the day.

One morning I woke up and there were police officers and homeless outreach workers. When they said there's a team of people here to help you, the first thing I thought was "yea right!" Just when you think there's no one who cares, they were there to help. That's when I met Marty. I recognized him from where I'd get bus tokens to visit my mom who lives in Markam Terrace. We started talking and I showed him my Section Eight letter from the Housing Authority. He told me to come to his office tomorrow morning and I was there. I might not have had a shower but I was there!

The Housing Authority gave me a form and I filled it out. I received the letter but it was hard for me to navigate the process. I think I had the letter for 4 or 6 months, transportation was always an issue. It was helpful to have Marty help me with it. Marty is a blessing. He's my Christmas list.

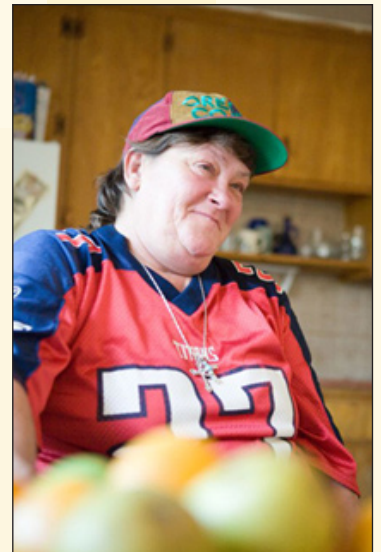
Today I have a 1 bedroom apartment. I'm still in shock...

I can't believe it. Yesterday I was living by the tracks and today I have my own place. I try to keep it clean and tidy. I like a clean place. I feel really good today because I called my sons and had my grandkids come see me in my new place, that's NOT on the tracks! I like this apartment; it's a nice location and my son lives close by me now. In my apartment, I have beans, rice and spaghetti. The church on McLaughlin, Christian Community, helps me. I called a friend there; she wanted to see my place and brought me groceries.

When I was homeless people like Marty didn't come around to offer help. Now it's different! I have friends living down the street from the El Chaboa, in the creek, and they said people are going down there and asking if they can help. Homeless people in the creeks are not going to come to you and say I'm homeless can you help me? I'm not saying you're obligated to go out there and find us but it works! It works....

To my homeless friends, I say don't give up. There are people who care and want to help.... I never thought this would happen but it did and it could happen for you too!"

Julie



Julie Rummell was a guest speaker at the City's December PHC event. When the outreach team walked the creek, it was the first time Marty met her. The 'Marty' Julie refers to is Marty Estrada, a former employee of Emergency Housing Consortium LifeBuilders (EHC), and served as one of our development specialist with Housing Services Partnership. Rebecca Garcia and Nichanh Petersen from the Housing Department interviewed her in her apartment in Willow Glenn, off of Curtner. The landlady recognized Julie from when she visited her son and accepted the Section 8 voucher from Julie.

SAN JOSE Soars

What's Up & Down at the Airport

Airport Construction Update



You can't miss the changes happening at Mineta San José International Airport. They're everywhere. Construction equipment and crews are now working throughout the Airport on improvements and replacements to terminals, roads, and parking, and the pace will only pick up faster during the summer.

Phase 1 of the SJC Terminal Area Improvement Program is well underway and most of the design work for the major elements of the TAIP is near completion. Next step is intense and complex construction over the next two and a half years, but the program remains on budget and on schedule for full opening of the new terminal in mid-2010 and completion of the roads and the consolidated rental car and public parking garage by the end of 2010.

Phase 1 of the TAIP is estimated to cost about \$1.3 billion, and it's the largest construction

project in the region today. The Airport and its partner airlines are working closely together to minimize inconvenience to the public and passengers as we meet the challenge of rebuilding and operating SJC simultaneously – like a massive home improvement project. But when we're done, we'll have a convenient, comfortable and competitive Airport for our residents and businesses that will serve as a proud gateway to San José and Silicon Valley for decades to come.

SAN JOSE

Preserves

When Home was Heinlenville

City Corporation Yard Becomes Archaeological Excavation Site

Archaeology is like a well-crafted mystery with a firm determination to follow the clues and exquisite patience you'll solve the mystery or in this case learn the history, the history of Heinlenville Chinatown.

For a few weeks this Spring, the City's Corporation Yard at 6th and Taylor Streets became an excavation grid. Archeologists carefully unearthed the past in search of clues of daily life in the settlement known as Heinlenville. After San José's first Chinatown, located at Market and San Fernando streets, was destroyed by fire, an estimated 2,000 Chinese immigrants settled in the 6th and Taylor area from 1887 to the 1930s. John Heinlen, a German immigrant, helped the Chinese merchants relocate on land he owned at Sixth and Taylor Streets.

In the early years, Heinlenville served as a support center for Chinese farmers and farm workers who shopped for supplies and socialized at the restaurants and gambling parlors. By the early 1900s, Japanese workers in the Santa Clara Valley also found their way to Heinlenville for food, supplies and entertainment. Japanese immigrants gradually began to establish a community on the edge of Heinlenville, along Sixth and Jackson streets. This area became the core of San José's modern-day Japantown.

Proactive Planning

Protecting Our Historical Structures

Unfortunately, we have lost four of our historical structures to fires over the twelve months, including the Donner House and IBM Building 25. While we cannot replace these treasures we can protect our other historical residential and commercial structures. The City's Department of Planning, Building and Code Enforcement (PBCE) has begun the process of modifying the City's Neglected Vacant House Ordinance. The proposed changes will include language specifically geared toward historical structures, expands the Ordinance to include commercial and industrial structures, minimizes the time and circumstances that a property owner can

By the 1920s, families replaced the Heinlenville bachelor society, bringing more shops, a temple and a school. The area flourished in spite of political and public harassment until the 1930s. The population began to dwindle as families found better homes elsewhere. By 1949, the brick buildings were razed, including the Ng Shing Gung temple. The altar, furnishings, and part of the facade were found later and used in an exhibit at San José's History Park. Japantown survived the internments of World War II and continues to flourish.

The City's archeological consultants will provide the community an opportunity to learn more about Heinlenville and the history of the Chinese in San José. The dig is part of the joint Redevelopment Agency/City project to redevelop the City's former Main Yard. For more information on the excavation contact Annita Waghorn, (707) 664-2381, Anthropological Studies Center, Sonoma State University or annita.waghorn@sonoma.edu. For information on the Main Yard redevelopment contact Helen de Runa, SJRDA (408) 795-1807 or helen.deruna@sanjoseca.gov.



board up a structure, and include possible measures an owner could take to ensure a vacant property is secure from vandals and fire. These changes should improve the City's ability to protect its historical structures. We'll begin outreach to the community and the real estate industry to join us preserving San José's history.

Congratulations San José, We are OFF the List

While we enjoy the whole Top Five/Top Ten thing as much as the next city, there's one list we are glad to put behind us –the cities with the biggest tax filing procrastinators. Yes, that's right fellow residents, we were once on the list of the Top 10 Tax Procrastinating Cities in America, *courtesy of Intuit, the maker of TurboTax products. Having learned the error of our ways, we as a community filed orderly and on time in 2007, thus removing our great city from such specious recognition. We like to think that we socially-conscious residents were so preoccupied with bringing about world peace and other lofty goals that we had a momentary lapse in organization and timing. We are quite sure it won't happen again. However, we can not say the same for our dear friends in Chicago; they were number one this year.

**As determined by the number of tax returns electronically filed online via the TurboTax Online service from April 14-April 17, 2007.*

If 20 Years is China and 25 Years is Silver, what's 22 Years?

*Dublin, San José Celebrate
Twenty-Two Year Sister
City Anniversary*

The City of San José, at 150 years old is a mere whippersnapper compared to our sister city, Dublin (Ireland). But even at 400+ years old Dublin is still a relatively new high-tech hub. Still we celebrate 22 years of sister city relationship in March. The Lord Mayor of Dublin and a 14-member delegation joined San José's elected and luminaries for a breakfast at the San José Museum of Contemporary Art and a flag-raising ceremony on the City Hall Plaza on March 7. The delegation, led by the Lord Mayor of Dublin and Councilor Paddy Bourke, includes two city councilors, the city manager, and leaders of the Dublin Chamber of Commerce. They met with City departments, local companies, and members of the community. The highlight of the Dublin Delegation's visit was, as always, the annual Spirit of Ireland Dinner at the San Jose Athletic Club on March 8. The sister city relationship was established in 1986 in recognition of two cities who began as agriculture centers and grew into centers of technology.

SAN JOSE Prepares

Speaking of Vacant Structures

As the mortgage crisis continues to take its toll on the Valley one of the results is an ever-increasing number of vacant residential structures. The City of San José's Code Enforcement Division has assigned an inspector to respond specifically to complaints of blight conditions at these residences. Property owners, including financial associations, are notified of their responsibility to maintain these vacant residential structures in a secure manner to prevent "unauthorized" entry. They are also required to remove graffiti and refuse promptly, and maintain the landscaping. The City is proactively preparing to weather this particular storm.

And Preparedness for All

*San José Prepared! Conducts Classes
in Three Languages*

For the first time, San José Prepared! conducted its disaster preparedness classes in Spanish, Vietnamese and Chinese. The Home and Family Disaster Preparedness Training in Chinese and Vietnamese drew an audience of over 70 people. The two-hour classes in Spanish brought in close to 40 people. The training was translated by volunteers at the center. The goal of this training is to help residents in the City of San José become more prepared and self-reliant before, during, and after a disaster, to relieve pressure on first responders.

For more information on San José Prepared! call (408) 277-4598 or visit SJPrepared@sanjoseca.gov.

Silicon Valley through the Lens of Basilico

*Images of San José Featured
in San Francisco Exhibit*

Famed Italian photographer Gabriele Basilico's exhibit of Silicon Valley sites are on display at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA) until Sunday, June 15, 2008. The exhibit includes photographs taken from the 17th floor balcony of San José's City Hall. This exhibition presents a series of nearly 50 black-and-white and color photographs taken by Basilico at the invitation of SFMOMA during a month-long residency in the Bay Area in July 2007. Chronicling the impact of the technology boom on the region, this exhibition will be the first of an ongoing project focused on Silicon Valley, in which artists will document the area on film.

SAN JOSE Conserves

Walking the Talk

City of San José to Begin Leading-Edge Recycling Program

The City of San José recycling program, already nationally known, has gotten better. Starting in May 2008, garbage from all City facilities and litter cans along sidewalks and at parks, libraries, and other public spaces is now sorted for recyclable and compostable materials. This allows the City to recycle 75% of wastes from City-owned and operated facilities – and to keep that waste from going into the local landfills.

Waste from all City facilities, including San José Mineta International Airport, McEnery Convention Center, public libraries, and community centers, goes to a state-of-the-art, 300-kilowatt solar-powered waste processing facility operated by Green Waste Recovery in central San José. The remaining organic waste, including food, is be composted at the Z-Best composting facility in southern Santa Clara County. Delivering garbage to the more centrally located sorting facility will help to reduce traffic and greenhouse gasses.

For more than a decade, San José has had one of the best recycling rates in the nation, with an overall landfill diversion rate of 62%. This new program brings the City closer to the Green Vision goal of becoming a Zero Waste city by 2022. Other efforts include maximising recycling at key public venues and larger city events such as the annual Cinco de Mayo Festival and the Jazz Festival in August. For more information about San José's Zero Waste programs, visit www.sjrecycles.org

On a Recycling Roll

Staff Prepare for Premier Recycling Conference in August -

The City of San José is a sponsor of the annual California Resource Recovery Association (CRRA) 2008 Conference, August 3-6, in Burlingame. CRRA, founded in 1974, is considered to be the premier and first state recycling organization. This conference is attended by public, private, and non-profit participants who develop and implement programs for reuse, recycling, organics, construction & demolition recovery, electronics, household hazardous waste, policy development, and educational outreach for zero waste and waste reduction activities. The City has staff active in leadership positions within CRRA and in conference planning. For more information, contact Lisa Tulee at 975-2510.



Spreading the Green Word

City Staff Takes it on the Road

- After hosting the enormously successful Annual City Earth Day (it was cool, classy and completely green; soooo San José), staff participated in San José State University's Earth Day event April 24. Watershed Division staff shared wastewater and storm water pollution prevention messages and promoted upcoming thermometer exchange events and Water Pollution Control Plant tours. Staff from the Office of Sustainability spoke to



a group of about 20 students on a variety of environmental issues, including green building, environmentally-preferable procurement, and product stewardship. Staff also spread environmentally preferable procurement word at the annual Business Owners Space.com (BOS) conference held at the Work2Future offices in San José. For additional information, contact Sharon Newton at 277-5695.

Yards of Green

City's Central Service Yard Awarded LEED Silver -

The City of San José Central Service Yard was awarded LEED Silver certification. The three certified buildings, totaling 96,000 square feet, include facilities for fleet maintenance and other essential municipal support services. The Central Services Yard is the second City of San José facility to be LEED certified, and the first to achieve LEED Silver. The City of San José portfolio of certified green buildings now totals 116,000 square feet, and substantial additional certifications are anticipated in 2008.

New School Recycling for Old School Residents

100-Plus Thermometers Exchanged at Senior Event -

The City hosted a Mercury Thermometer Exchange as part of an Earth Day Resource Faire held April 25 at Cypress Senior Center. About 150 residents attended the event and turned in a total of 114 old-fashioned glass mercury thermometers in exchange for free digital thermometers. The Santa Clara County Household Hazardous Materials Program properly disposed of the mercury-containing materials. This program helps reduce mercury pollution to our waterways. For additional information, contact Sandra Freitas at 277-5786.

CITY NEWS

SAN JOSE Conserves

San José Population Grows - by Three

City Hall Falcons Celebrate Earth Day with the Hatching of Chicks



Last year, the City Hall falcons, Clara and José, captured attention worldwide as they launched their young ones, Hiko, Spirit, and Esperanza, off into the world. People from around the globe were fascinated by the beautiful story of these incredible creatures defying the elements. According to the experts, the chances of them returning to the nest box atop City Hall were slim at best. Well they have returned - with a few changes.

José left the nest box in late July 2007 and hasn't been spotted for quite some time. The Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group (SCPBRG) tells us that usually, when a mate is lost, a new mate moves in within a week or so from "floaters" in a healthy population. Around the end of August a new banded tiercel [official name for male bird] showed up and began courting Clara. We did some checking on the new fellow; his name is Carlos, he was hatched and banded by SCPBRG in 2006. There was a bit of drama when another tiercel began circling around. Though he was unbanded, we dubbed him Salvador in keeping with the City of San José naming tradition.

The two suitors battled for Clara's affections we were kept in suspense for a few days it was determined that Carlos was the winner. Clara and Carlos have settled into the nest box and produced their first clutch of eggs - four in all. Viewers from all over the world served as virtual nannies, watching over the nestbox via the Falcon-Cam (www2.ucsc.edu/scpbrg/falconcamera.htm.)

With a great sense of dramatic timing, hatching began in the middle of the night April 21st and the last chick fought its way out of the shell at around 10:30AM, right in time to kick off the Earth Day celebration. The fourth egg, the first one laid, was thought by the experts to be unfertilized and is not expected to hatch. Clara and Carlos appear quite content feeding the new arrivals and decimating the downtown pigeon population.

Once again the Falcon-Cam is getting hits from all over the world and this true 'reality show' has been incorporated into the curriculum of many schools. As always, with real life and real nature, there are no guarantees of survival. We faced another banding on May 16. Once again the good folks of SCPBRG scaled the uppermost stories of City Hall to place identifying bands on the tiny unwilling legs of the hatchlings while parents, Clara and Carlos, did everything in their power to rip the biologists to shreds.

We're sure the biologists will take a few seconds to reconsider career choices once they are safely on the ground. But to our three new residents; two girls and one boy, "Welcome to San José, the Capital of Silicon Valley - We're technologically clean and economically green; *and* in the true spirit of the circle of life, we've got more than enough pigeons for you."